

in our region is, giving the possibility of investment and work and labor.

Obviously, the agricultural topic is a topic—is an issue, but this has had an enormous advance for——

**Q.** [Inaudible].

**President Flores Perez.** —the Salvadorans and the region.

**President Bush.** Are you asking another question?

**Q.** Yes.

**President Bush.** Okay. What is it?

**Q.** Excuse me. My colleagues from Guatemala are asking that in Guatemala there has been the withdrawal of the visas to some militaries. And they want to know if this is part of the control or the enforcement of the improvement of economies that the countries are asking for.

**President Bush.** [Inaudible]

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, what is——

**President Bush.** Raise the mike a little.

**Q.** Don't think it goes that high.

**President Bush.** Okay. [Laughter]

### **Democratic Party's Radio Address**

**Q.** What is your reaction to the Democratic Party using its national radio address to criticize you on foreign soil, saying you made this trip to Latin America merely to pander to Hispanic voters?

**President Bush.** Wow. That was the ad?

**Q.** Yes.

**President Bush.** Or not the ad, but the—well, I guess I'd say, I'm disappointed. When I first got elected, I said, the best foreign policy for the United States is to have a prosperous, peaceful, and free neighborhood. My first trip as President of the United States, out of the United States, was to Mexico. And my longstanding interest in this—in Mexico and Central America is well known.

I firmly believe that the best policy for the United States is to pay attention to our friends, is to promote trade. Trade produces liberty and freedom. And sometimes in Washington, DC, people cannot get rid of old habits—which is petty politics, Mr. President. But that's just what happens. But people in America know that our administration is focused on what's best for America. And what's best for America is a prosperous and

peaceful El Salvador, *y Mexico, y tambien los paises in Sur de América*. There is a great opportunity for all of us to be equal partners, to work *otros para todos los personas que viven in nuestros paises*.

*Señor Presidente, gracias. El honor es mio de está en este pais.* It has been my honor to be in this country. Thank you very much. We have to all work together to make this happen.

**President Flores Perez.** I just wanted to say, just to close this conference, that El Salvador, through myself, wants to express their profound appreciation to the United States of America for having accompanied us in so many difficult times. And this has to do with the leadership of President Bush. And Salvadorans want to recognize you at this moment.

And I would like to end by saying this—and this is very personal—I have had some honors in my life, but never had I had such a high honor as President Bush calling me his friend.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The news conference began at 1 p.m. at the Casa Presidencial. President Flores Perez and some of the reporters spoke in Spanish, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to TPS, temporary protected status for immigrants.

### **Proclamation 7533—National Bone and Joint Decade, 2002–2011**

*March 21, 2002*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Living a life free from daily bone pain or joint discomfort is something most people take for granted. Our bones, joints, and connective tissues are the structure upon which all other systems of the body depend. They give us strength, mobility, protection, and stability. And they permit us to perform a great variety of physical activities that shape our daily lives.

Our musculoskeletal structure is a complex system of tissue and bone that is regularly

subjected to trauma, metabolic and genetic processes, and the gradual wear and tear of an active life. When these bones and tissues become damaged or diseased, they can create chronic conditions that may seriously impede and sometimes permanently affect one's health and well-being.

In the United States, musculoskeletal disorders are a leading cause of physical disability. Conditions such as osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, back pain, spinal disorders, and fractures, also affect hundreds of millions of people around the world. And many children suffer from crippling bone and joint diseases and deformities, impeding normal development and preventing them from experiencing a full and healthy life.

The incidence of musculoskeletal conditions will increase as the average age of our population increases. And our culture's increasing emphasis on physical activity, while important to society's overall well-being, will also increase the stress factors on bones and joints. Ensuing disorders, if left untreated, could result in significant pain and suffering that would affect employment, well-being, and healthcare costs.

National Bone and Joint Decade, 2002–2011, envisions a series of international initiatives among physicians, health professionals, patients, and communities, working together to raise awareness about musculoskeletal disorders and promoting research and development into therapies, preventative measures, and cures for these disorders. Advances in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and research of musculoskeletal conditions will greatly enhance the quality of life of our aging population.

The National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, and other Federal agencies support many bone and joint studies. Industry and private professional and voluntary agencies support other initiatives. This work involves scientists examining the possible genetic causes of bone and joint diseases and studying how hormones, growth factors, and drugs regulate the skeleton. Other researchers are studying bone density, quality, and metabolism, and other ways to increase the longevity of joint replacements

for those whose daily activities have become painful, difficult, or even impossible. These research efforts can help relieve pain and suffering and give countless children and adults the opportunity for a better life.

Thanks to the hard work of these dedicated researchers, we have made great progress in understanding and treating musculoskeletal disorders. I commend their efforts and encourage them to pursue diligently further research that will help those suffering from these disorders. And I hope that all Americans will learn more about musculoskeletal problems, their long- and short-term effects, and the therapies and treatments available to help them.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the years 2002–2011, as National Bone and Joint Decade. I call upon the people of the United States to observe the decade with appropriate programs and activities; and I call upon the medical community to pursue research in this important area.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 25, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 26.

## **Proclamation 7534—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2002**

*March 21, 2002*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### **A Proclamation**

America's future depends in part on ensuring that every child in America receives a